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INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

JANUARY 1982

VOL. III, No. 8

INTERIM COMMITTEES

BUSINESS

ECONOMIC
CONFERENCE
HELD

Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Business are continuing to absorb information relating to improving Montana's economic climate.

Committee member Senator Tom Towe participated in a panel discussion on economic development before the Rural Area Development Committee on December 15 in Bozeman. Dave Bohyer, staff researcher, also spoke at the meeting. The Area Development Committee is a private group of business and agriculture leaders devoted to finding ways to improve the state's economy.

The next meeting date of the committee has not yet been set.

EDUCATION

MEETING SET
JANUARY 8

The Joint Subcommittee on Education will hold a work session on Friday, January 8, 1982. Committee members will review and discuss study findings to date. The observations of NCSL consultant Dr. Mary Frase Williams will also be discussed. Dr. Williams visited Montana in December to appraise the school finance situation and to offer suggestions for changes.

In addition, Representative Ken Nordtvedt will present his views on funding the school foundation program.

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FISH AND GAME

MEETING
SCHEDULED
JANUARY 9

The Joint Subcommittee on Fish and Game will hold its second meeting on January 9, 1982, at 9:00 a.m. in Helena. Jim Flynn, Director of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and Spencer Hegstad, Chairman of the Fish and Game Commission, will speak to the committee. A draft staff report on the department's organizational structure will also be discussed.

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS
COMMITTEE MEETS
JANUARY 14

The Joint Subcommittee on Highways will meet Thursday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 104. A major item on the agenda will be a discussion of alternate methods of highway financing. Representatives of Dain Bosworth, regional brokerage firm, will explain the use of bonds. Cost responsibility systems, such as ton-mile and weight-distance, will be discussed by spokesmen for proponents and opponents.

JUDICIARY

MEETING SET FOR
LATE JANUARY

The Joint Subcommittee on Judiciary has tentatively scheduled its fourth meeting of the interim for late January.

During the meeting, the committee will continue its study of delays in the criminal appellate process and topics relating to judicial redistricting. Agenda items will include a review of proposed legislation concerning state appeal of criminal sentences and revisions in the criminal appellate procedure. In addition, a district court judges' committee will review its redistricting plan. Judiciary committee members will also discuss state funding for district court operations and legislation requiring the random assignment of judges in criminal and civil cases in multijudge districts.

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION
MEETING SET
JANUARY 29

Gross vehicle weight fees and selection of locations for grain subterminals will be the main topics at a meeting of the Joint Subcommittee on Transportation in Room 104 on Friday, January 29, at 9:00 a.m. Officials of the Gross Vehicle Weight Division of the Department of Highways will explain the permitting systems.

Representatives of farmers, grain companies, and railroads have been invited to discuss the methods used to choose locations for subterminals to service unit trains and the state's role in the selections.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEETING SET FOR
FEBRUARY 5

The next meeting of the Revenue Oversight Committee is scheduled for February 5, 1982, in Helena at the Capitol. The meeting will be in Room 104 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The tentative agenda items for the meeting will include a report from the Department of Revenue on pending legal cases, a report from the committee's staff on the financial condition of local governments, and information on business and occupation taxation in the states of Washington and Virginia.

BUSINESS
INVENTORY POLL

At its November meeting, the Revenue Oversight Committee decided to poll the legislature to determine whether rules proposed by the Department of Revenue regarding the business inventory tax credit were consistent with legislative intent. Approximately 65 legislators have responded to the poll so far. The remaining legislators are encouraged to mark their ballots and return them by January 6, 1982.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

JANUARY 29
MEETING

The Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee will hold a meeting in Helena on January 29, 1982, in Room 108 of the Capitol beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Subcommittee will devote the major portion of the meeting to the subject of highway funding as it relates to coal tax revenues.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

SUBCOMMITTEE
DATE CHANGED

The EQC Subcommittee on Hard-Rock Mining, chaired by Representative Dave Brown, D-Butte, has reset the date of the public hearing/working committee meeting to be held in Columbus, Montana; tentatively scheduled for February 8, the meeting is now planned for February 12.

GROUNDWATER
CONFERENCE
DATE SET

The Groundwater Conference jointly sponsored by the EQC and the Water Resources Oversight Committee has been tentatively scheduled for April 22 and 23 in Helena. This conference is being conducted in an effort to illuminate the critical importance of Montana's groundwater and its interrelationship with surface water resources. Topics to be discussed include groundwater depletion and contamination,

institutional programs, legal issues, and proposals and recommendations for a state groundwater strategy. Contact the EQC staff for additional information.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 11 AND 12

The Legislative Audit Committee, consisting of Senators Matt Himsl, Chet Blaylock, Steve Brown, and Frank Hazelbaker, and Representatives Kathleen McBride, Robert Anderson, Jim Burnett, and Steve Waldron, will meet January 11 and 12, 1982, in Room 135 of the State Capitol.

REPORTS TO BE ISSUED

The committee will receive and review a financial/compliance audit report of the Department of Agriculture.

The Committee will also receive and review the following audits conducted by certified public accounting firms:

Legislative Council
Consumer Counsel
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Environmental Quality Council
Legislature
Legislative Auditor
Business Regulation
Community Affairs
Great Falls Vocational-Technical Center
Butte Vocational-Technical Center
Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology
Flathead Valley Community College

SUNSET

A hearing will be held on the sunset report of the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation.

REPORTS AVAILABLE

Copies of all reports are available from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol, telephone 449-3122.

NEBRASKA VETERINARY SCHOOL

FIVE-STATE CONFERENCE DISCUSSES VET SCHOOL,

Nebraska legislators gave a presentation at the September Five-State Conference of their state's efforts to launch a veterinary school designed to serve the region. Representative Jay Fabrega reported that the goal is to train about 94 students each year. About 35 of these students would be from Nebraska while there would be about 15 each from the other four states. Nebraska is recruiting commitments from the

other states for financial support. At least two other states must have agreed to participate in the program by the time the Nebraska authorization bill expires in 1983. Representative Fabrega brought back a three-page overview of the proposed regional program for veterinary education, research, and services for those of you who would like more detailed information. A copy of this document is available through the Legislative Council library.

NCSL REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

DELEGATE DESIGNATED

The Legislative Council designated Representative Chris Stobie to serve on the Regulatory Improvement Committee of NCSL. At the Annual Meeting of NCSL, the scope of this committee's work was expanded to include a number of issues closely related to the kind of work done by the Administrative Code Committee. The Administrative Code Committee had asked that one of its members be designated to serve on the NCSL group, and the Council responded by designating the chair. The Administrative Code Committee will support the travel expenses.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

JANUARY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	MONDAY										
								1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 REVENUE OVERSIGHT RM 104 9 am	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 EOC HARD ROCK MINING SUBCOMMITTEE COLUMBUS	13
14	15 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED	16	17	18	19 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

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